

THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the insertion of information to synchronize a destination node with a data stream transmitted from an entry terminal in a heterogeneous network, the heterogeneous network including at least one sub-network conveying first packets and one basic network conveying second packets, the entry terminal being connected to the sub-network, the sub-network being connected to the basic network by means of an entry node forming the second packets from at least one sub-part of at least one first packet,

wherein, at the occurrence of at least one pre-determined event, the entry node:

forms a second synchronization packet such that the beginning of ~~the~~ useful information of the second synchronization packet corresponds to the beginning of ~~[[a]]~~ the first packet;

inserts a synchronization marker in the second synchronization packet; and
modifies the size of a second packet preceding the second synchronization packet~~[[s]]~~.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined event is reached at a predetermined instant from among a plurality of predetermined instants.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of predetermined instants succeed one another in a cycle with a fixed period.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined event is the reception, by the entry node, of a synchronization request.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ a synchronization request is sent out by a node belonging to ~~the~~ a group comprising:

a first destination node, to which there is connected a first destination terminal that has formulated a first request for connection with the entry terminal, to receive said data stream; and

a second destination node, to which there is connected a second destination terminal that has formulated a second request for connection with the entry terminal, to receive said data stream, after a connection has already been set up between the first destination terminal and the entry terminal for said data stream.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the entry node modifies the size of the second synchronization packet, in such a way that the sum of the modified size of the preceding second packet and the modified size of the second synchronization packet is substantially equal to ~~the~~ a normal size of a second packet.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the entry node manages a mechanism for ~~the~~ obtaining, after each occurrence of a predetermined

event, ~~of the~~ a current distance, in memory, between a memorized position of a forthcoming start of a first packet and a current position of a read pointer used for the building of the second packets.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the entry node performs the following steps:

the entry node obtains said current distance;

if the current distance is equal to zero, the entry node generates and sends a second synchronization packet for which the start of ~~the~~ payload data corresponds to the start of a first packet, this second synchronization packet comprising a synchronization marker;

if the current distance is smaller than the normal size of ~~[[a]]~~ the second packet, the entry node generates and sends a truncated second packet, called a preceding second packet, whose reduced size is equal to the current distance, then generates and sends a second synchronization packet for which the start of the payload data corresponds to the start of ~~[[a]]~~ the first packet, this second synchronization packet comprising a synchronization marker; and

if the current distance is greater than or equal to the normal size of ~~[[a]]~~ the second packet, the entry node sends a second normal-sized packet that is not a second synchronization packet.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for the processing of information for the synchronizing of a destination node with a data stream transmitted from an entry

terminal in a heterogeneous network, the heterogeneous network including at least one sub-network conveying first packets and a basic network conveying second packets, the sub-network being connected to the basic network by means of a destination node,

wherein the destination node:

detects a second synchronization packet among the second packets conveyed by the basic network by means of a synchronization marker contained in the second synchronization packet;

forms a first synchronization packet from at least one second synchronization packet, such that the beginning of the first synchronization packet corresponds to the beginning of the useful information of the second synchronization packet; and

transfers the first synchronization packet to the sub-network.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein, following the transfer of the first synchronization packet, the destination node:

forms first packets out of second packets associated with the data stream;

and

transfers the first packets formed on the sub-network.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of the~~ claim 9 wherein so long as it has not detected a second synchronization packet, the destination node swallows the second received packets, without forming first packets.

12. (Currently Amended) A node in a heterogeneous network, the heterogeneous network including at least one sub-network conveying first packets and a basic network conveying second packets, the node comprising:

forming means for forming a second synchronization packet such that the start of ~~the~~ payload data of the second synchronization packet corresponds to the start of a first packet;

inserting means for inserting a synchronization marker in the second synchronization packet; and

modification means for modifying the size of a second packet preceding the second synchronization packet.

13. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 12, wherein said forming means forms the second synchronization packet at ~~[[a]] the~~ occurrence of a predetermined event, said predetermined event being reached at a predetermined instant from among a plurality of predetermined instants.

14. (Original) A node according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of predetermined instants succeed one another in a cycle with a fixed period.

15. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 12, wherein said forming means forms the second synchronization packet at ~~[[a]] the~~ occurrence of a predetermined event, said predetermined event being ~~the~~ reception, by the ~~entry~~ node, of a synchronization request.

16. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 15, wherein the synchronization request is sent out by a node belonging to ~~the~~ a group comprising:

a first destination node, to which there is connected a first destination terminal that has formulated a first request for connection with ~~the~~ an entry terminal, to receive said data stream; and

a second destination node, to which there is connected a second destination terminal that has formulated a second request for connection with the entry terminal, to receive said data stream, after a connection has already been set up between the first destination terminal and the entry terminal for said data stream.

17. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 12, wherein said modification means ~~modify a~~ modifies the size of the second synchronization packet, in such a way that the sum of the modified size of the preceding second packet and the modified size of the second synchronization packet is substantially equal to ~~the~~ a normal size of a second packet.

18. (Original) A node according to claim 12, further comprising means for obtaining a current distance in memory between a memorized position of a forthcoming start of a first packet and a current position of a read pointer used for the building of the second packets.

19. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 18, further comprising means for selective activation as a function of the value of the current distance obtained, such that:

if the current distance is equal to zero, the activation means activates means for generating and sending a second synchronization packet for which the start of the payload data corresponds to the start of a first packet, this second synchronization packet comprising a synchronization marker;

if the current distance is smaller than the normal size of a second packet, the activation means activates means for generating and sending a second truncated packet, called a preceding second packet, whose reduced size is equal to the current distance, then means for generating and sending a second synchronization packet for which the start corresponds to the start of a first packet, this second synchronization packet comprising a synchronization marker; and

if the current distance is greater than or equal to the normal size of a second packet, the activation means activates means for sending a second normal-sized packet that is not a second synchronization packet.

20. (Currently Amended) A node in a heterogeneous network, the heterogeneous network including at least one sub-network conveying first packets and one basic network conveying second packets, the node comprising:

detecting means for detecting a second synchronization packet among the second packets conveyed by the basic network by a synchronization marker contained in the second synchronization packet;

forming means for forming a first synchronization packet from at least one second synchronization packet, such that the beginning of the first synchronization packet corresponds to the beginning of ~~the~~ useful information of the second synchronization packet; and

transmitter for transmitting the first synchronization packet to the sub-network.

21. (Currently Amended) A node according to claim 20, wherein said forming means forms first packets out of second packets associated with the data stream following the transmission of the first synchronization packet, and wherein said transmitter transmits the first packets formed on the sub-network.

22. (Original) A node according to claim 20, further comprising means for swallowing the second received packets, without forming first packets so long as it has not detected a second synchronization packet.